

City of MIAMI BEACH BRIEFS

A Publication for the Citizens and Neighborhoods of the City of Miami Beach

www.ci.miami-beach.fl.us

Volume III, Issue 6. Summer 2001

Communications Corner

"SINCE YOU ASKED..."

Third Thursday of Every Month in The Miami Herald
Beach Neighbors
or e-mail your questions to:
305-673-7223 or jcalderon@herald.com



Tune-in to Cable Channel 20 for
Commission meetings & the
City's E-News.



Learn what's happening in
the City by visiting the
City's Website at
www.ci.miami-beach.fl.us

Miami Beach Briefs is produced as part of Neighborhoods First. For comments and/or suggestions about this publication, contact the Media Relations Office at 305-673-7575 (ph), 305-673-7229 (fax) or e-mail us at pio@ci.miami-beach.fl.us

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

CiviCall

(For Information & Comments)
305-604-CITY (2489)

Office of the Mayor and Commission

305-673-7030

Office of the City Manager

305-673-7010

Police (non-emergency)

305-673-7900

Fire (non-emergency)

305-673-7120

Parks & Recreation

305-673-7730

Parking

305-673-PARK

City Job Hotline

305-673-7777

City Clerk

305-673-7411

Bulky Waste Pick-Up Appointment

305-638-3800

Water & Sewer

305-673-7625

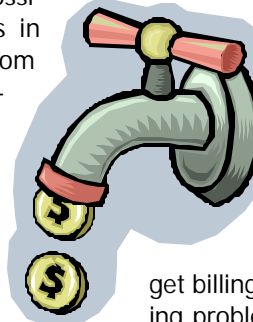


City Initiates a Pilot Budget Billing Program for Qualified Residents

In response to residential utility customers who have concerns about the possibility of significant fluctuations in their water and sewer billings from month to month, the City Commission made a change to the City Code to permit the implementation of a "budget billing" program for these charges.

This pilot program is for single-family residence customers that qualify for the additional home-
stead exemption, recently approved for persons over 65 years of age with household income of \$20,000 or less. All single-family residence customers would be eligible to apply for budget billing following the successful completion of the six-month pilot program.

This program will allow water and sewer customers to pay the same amount each month for a 12-month period. The monthly amount will be based on the average of



the billings for water and sewer services for the previous 12 months. On the 13th month, a new monthly amount will be computed which would include an adjustment to reflect the actual consumption during the previous year. The City will monitor fluctuations in monthly usage so that it can continue to notify budget billing customers about possible plumbing problems on a timely basis. If the variance from the budgeted monthly amount should become greater than 50 percent of the average, a customer on budget billing would be notified that the monthly amount would be recalculated or regular billing will commence.

There is no charge to enroll in the budget billing program. To sign up for the program, the qualified customer would need to contact the Finance Department to complete an application. For more information, call 305-673-7000, extension 6633.

North Beach Community Reaches Consensus at Visioning Workshops

Many North Beach residents, business owners, City staff, architects, planners and developers gathered last month to define a vision for the redevelopment of the 71st Street commercial corridor and the 72nd Street site and Bandshell Park. Also on the agenda was a discussion in changing traffic patterns to create a pedestrian/bicycle-friendly environment and to create a unique identity for North Beach.

The workshops were well attended and everyone had opportunities to express their ideas and concerns. A report will be compiled and the City Commission will review it in July.

The primary goal of the North Beach Strategic Plan is to establish strategies to meet the goals of the residential neighborhoods,

commercial districts and visitor attractions. The residential neighborhood goal is to make North Beach is the most desirable residential area in Greater Miami for individuals and families of diverse and cultural backgrounds. The goal of the commercial districts is to support the needs of the resident population for goods and services and enhance a family-oriented, affordable environment to attract visitors.

Studies and analysis of several on-going projects and areas of concern will continue over the next few months.



There is still plenty of summer
left to enjoy the City's
Summer Camps. For more information,
call 305-673-7730.

City's Mission Statement

"We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work, and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community."



AT YOUR SERVICE!

Elyse Sitomer, Kevin Crowder & Dennis Leyva

Through economic development initiatives, the **Economic Development Division** solicits interest from developers and businesses wishing to locate, invest and build in the City. The Division continues its efforts to attract and retain local businesses through an Economic Restructuring Program that focuses on business retention, recruitment and expansion. A key premise of the Division's operations is the coordination of the key business development stakeholders, including government, public sector agencies, businesses, property owners, and the real estate and financing industries.

The Division provides extensive statistical information to existing and potential businesses/investors such as Market Research (Retail, Hospitality, Tourism, Entertainment, Real Estate, Residential, Health Care), Economic Impact Reports, Visitor Profiles and Tourism Impact Studies, Employment Profiles, Commercial Area Profiles, Development Project Profiles, and Real Estate Inventories.

The Division also provides targeted focus to the development and growth of the entertainment industry through supporting, recruiting and retaining music, TV/cable, film, fashion/print, and new media companies, conferences, trade shows, television origination, and awards programs.

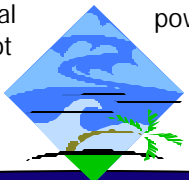
The Division also coordinates the City's legislative agenda at the Federal and State levels, working to secure funding for various types of projects in Miami Beach and to implement and change legislation.

The Division coordinates various business development initiatives including business and consumer needs surveys, relocation packages, analysis of relevant economic data, and the coordination of business seminars that cover a broad range of topics.



New Fire Engines Ready for Action

The Miami Beach Fire Department has two new 55 foot skyboom fire trucks, funded by the City's 1999 General Obligation Bond. These apparatus will increase the department's strategic and tactical applications. Two other new 100 foot aerial platform trucks are currently being tested and should be in service in the very near future.



Miami Beach Hurricane Preparation brochures are available in English and Spanish. Call 305-673-7130 to request yours.

KNOW THE CODES



Loud Noise Prohibited (Section 46-152)

All properties, business and residential, must comply with the noise ordinance. Construction activity* during permitted hours and permitted Special Events are exceptions. Generally speaking, if the noise is plainly audible over 100 feet away, there is a violation. To make a noise complaint or for more information, contact the Code Compliance Department at 305-673-7555, and on weekends call 305-673-7900.

*Construction activity is limited to certain days and times depending on the zoning district. No construction activity can start prior to 7:30 a.m. unless they have been granted a special permit by the Building Department.



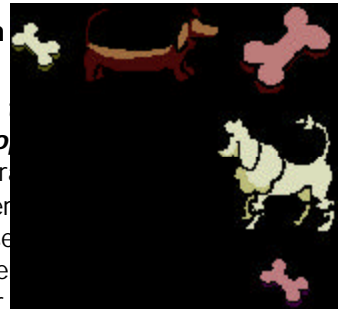
Pine Tree Park will Soon Be Going to the Dogs

A new Bark Park is scheduled to be completed by the end of the summer at Pine Tree Park, 45th Street and Pine Tree Drive. The park will have a designated fenced area for dogs to roam and run without a leash. Improvements to the park include new fencing, benches, ADA compliant entries, landscaping and water fountains, just to name a few.

While the park is being prepared, you can take your dog to Flamingo Park's Bark Park.

Remember Pooch's Poo

Don't embarrass leaving his/her ground. Please and remember up after your dog. We will appreciate it. It's the right thing to do.



The City has placed Pooper Scooper dispensers and bags throughout the City in convenient locations adjacent to park entrances, walkways and near trash receptacles.



Microsoft Global Briefing Held in Miami Beach

The City hosts close to 12,000 Microsoft team members and their families from July 7 through 14, 2001. The economic impact of the conference is estimated at \$19 million.



Parking Debit Cards The Easiest Way to Park

Call 305-673-7505 or 305-673-PARK (7275)

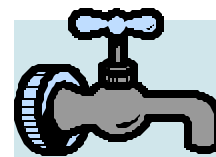
Hurricane Information Tip All Emergency Calls Cease

City of Miami Beach fire, rescue and police teams will cease emergency operations during an impending hurricane when winds reach Tropical Storm force (35-40 mph). Following a hurricane, emergency calls will be limited due to flooding, downed powerlines, street access and limited personnel. The City encourages everyone to seek a safe shelter and evacuate the City when the order is given.

Beach Access for Persons with Disabilities



To assist those who are mobility impaired, Surf Chairs (special beach wheelchairs), are available at 1001 Ocean Drive and at 7251 Collins Avenue to enjoy access to the water. Wheelchair access to the beach (sand only) via dune cross-overs are located at South Pointe Park, and 5th, 46th, 64th and 72nd streets. For more information on accessible recreational programs, contact Cindy Casanova at 305-673-7730.



Please Conserve Water

Phase II of Mandatory Water Restrictions are Still in Effect

For information on the restrictions and how to further conserve water, log on to www.sfwmd.gov or call 1-800-662-8876.



Enjoy a **free** celebration of the arts every month from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Call 305-673-7500 or 2ndthursdays.com.